REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10, and 11, are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 4-8 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 10 and 11 have been added. The subject matter of claims 10 and 11 is shown at least in Figs. 1-4 and, therefore, these claims should be examined with the claims of elected Species I. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Priority Documents

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the Certified copies of the Priority Documents as filed on June 9, 2004.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

- The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under §102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 5,800,064 to Ohya (hereinafter Ohya) or by JP 2002-139035 (hereinafter JP '035). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections because each of the references fails to disclose all of the elements as set forth and arranged in the claims.

Claim 1 sets forth a linear guide apparatus comprising: a guide rail having a plurality of rolling element race tracks; and a slider having leg portions disposed widthwise over both sides of the guide rail, the slider including a slider main body and a pair of end caps respectively fixed to end faces of the slider main body, the slider main body having a plurality of rolling element race tracks which are provided on an inner face of the respective leg portions of the slider main body, wherein the slider main body has first recesses each of which is provided on the inner face of the respective leg portions and below the rolling element race track close to an end portion of each of the leg portions.

By way of non-limiting example, as shown in Fig. 1, one embodiment consistent with that set forth in claim 1 is a linear guide apparatus comprising: a guide rail 51 having a plurality

of rolling element race tracks 53; and a slider 52 having leg portions 54 disposed widthwise over both sides of the guide rail 53, the slider 52 including a slider main body 52A and a pair of end caps 54 respectively fixed to end faces of the slider main body 52A, the slider main body 52A having a plurality of rolling element race tracks 55 which are provided on an inner face of the respective leg portions of the slider main body, wherein the slider main body 52A has first recesses 60 each of which is provided on the inner face of the respective leg portions 54 and below the rolling element race track 55 close to an end portion of each of the leg portions 54.

Because the recesses 60 are provided on the inner face of the respective leg portions 54, they can be formed simultaneously with the race tracks on the slider main body.

In contrast to that set forth in claim 1, Ohya discloses recesses 38 around the return tubes 21 in slider body 3, wherein the recesses 38 receive projections 24 from end caps 5, but are formed on an end face of the slider body 3. See Figs. 8 and 12. That is, the recesses 38 are not formed on an inner surface of the leg portions, i.e., the same surface on which there are also formed the race tracks 12. Therefore, Ohya fails to disclose recesses each of which is provided in the inner face of the respective leg portion, as set forth in claim 1.

In contrast to that set forth in claim 1, JP '035 discloses a positional groove 7 in slider 1 that is located in the middle portion of the leg portions. That is, as discussed in the present specification, because of their intermediate position, the groove 7 and pin 8 engagement have the drawback that, when there occurs an aperture deformation of the slider main body, the aperture between the leg portions becomes greater at a portion closer to the end portions thereof, than does the corresponding portion of the end cap. Accordingly, the deformation of the end cap may not follow the deformation of the slider main body, thereby degrading positioning precision between the lower rolling element rolling grooves on the slider main body and the direction reversal paths in the end cap. See the present specification at page 3, line 9 to page 4, line 20. Therefore, JP '035 fails to disclose recesses each of which is provided below the rolling element race track close to an end portion of each of the leg portions, as set forth in claim 1.

For at least any of the above reasons, each one of Ohya and JP '035 fails to anticipate independent claim 1. Likewise, each of these references fails to anticipate dependent claims 2 and 3.

- The Examiner rejected claim 9 under §102(e) as being anticipated by JP '035, and with rollers. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is now moot.

New Claims

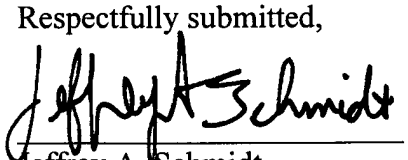
Applicants have added new claims 10 and 11 to further define the invention. The subject matter of new claims 10 and 11 is disclosed in the original specification at least in Figs. 1-4 and, therefore, these claims should be examined along with elected Species I. Further, no new matter has been entered.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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